(b) There will no banking/carry forward of Free Commercial Time from the Metro (DD-II) to the News Channel. Also there will be no repeat of programmes.

(c) Bank Guarantee of the value of six episodes telecast fee to Dordarhan Comercial Service.

(d) If there are any outstanding dues with Doordarsan Commercial Service, the same are to be declared as per an approved repayment plan.

(f) Submission of the requisite undertakings and indemnity bond well in advance of the commecement of the programme.

(g) The quality of the programme shall be constantly monitored by Doordarshan and any deterioration in quality shall render the programme liable to be taken off the air without any notice.

Introdcution of set top boxes in Chennai

586. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the set top boxes have been introduced in Chennai; and

(b) if so, the impact thereof indicating the number of units sold and the reduction in the average price paid by the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Set Top Boxes are provided by Multi System Operators/cable operators and the Government do not maintain any record in this regard. However, about 12,000 Set Top Boxes are estimated to have been sold/rented out to the Cable TV subscribers in Chennai. The consumers in Chennai appear to be satisfied with the free-to-air channels at a cost of Rs. 72 (plus taxes) being presently received for which no STB is required. Moreover, some popular pay channels have switched over to free-to-air category, in Chennai.